

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A surge protector for single-phase or multi-phase power lines is disclosed, for permanent connection near the entrance of power lines to a building, that has a basic protector sub-circuit of a metal-oxide varistor (MOV) and a gas-discharge tube (GDT) connected in series between the power line and building ground. Preferably, the gas-discharge tube is a three-element GDT and is connected to two metal-oxide varistors. In a multi-phase implementation, the present invention includes one or more protector sub-circuits connected between each power line and ground, wherein each protector sub-circuit includes two metal-oxide varistors connected to a power line and a gas-discharge tube connected to the building ground.